

South East *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group : Blue

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Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: 7) Hold us accountable for retaining their graduates.

Priority response #2 (votes: 6) Reduce/consolidate the number of local government—incentives to do so.

Priority response #3 (votes: 3) Allocate major economic development money by region; state/local decisions.

Priority response #4 (votes: 3) Regional commission to get fund money for recreation and transportation.

Priority response #5 (votes: 3) Wire the sate with Boradband.

Priority response #6 (votes: 2) Train official in economic development: Governor, Mayor, etc.

Priority response #7 (votes: 2) Do “smart” budgeting—more use of infrastructure.

Priority response #8 (votes: 2) Create economic development clearinghouse.

Priority response #9 (votes: 2) Create state entrepreneurial SWAT team.

Priority response #10 (votes: 2) Re-energize corporate leaders to be pro-active in economic development.

Priority response #11 (votes: 2) Give Milwaukee equal percent state money for high tech.

“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

Priority Issue #1 Hold UW System accountable for retaining graduates in Wisconsin and attracting alumni to come back.

- *Link undergraduate and graduate schools with employers: co-ops, internships, etc.
- *Give colleges incentives/tools when they succeed in retaining graduates.
- *Hold people at UW System level accountable.
- *Hold people at each college campus accountable.
- *Establish staff to accomplish this at UW System and in each campus.
- *Give them the flexibility to run like a business.
- *Provide financial incentives to keep students in Wisconsin after graduations: a) financial aid b) out of state tuition remission/rebate.
- *UW to create programs to link employers to school—pay tuition, require “X” number of years service to “workoff” tuition support.
- *Require curriculum to include coursework in small business entrepreneurial studies.
- *Develop 1-3 year plan for graduate retention.
- *Market Wisconsin in alumni publications
- *Recognize that UW-Madison is different.

Priority Issue #2 Reduce the number of local governments and local service and provide incentives to consolidate and improve operational efficiency.

- *State financial aid increase that rewards consolidation.
- *Provide education, technical resources and benchmarks to show how it can be done and the benefits of doing it.
- *Stop inter-government bickering that drives out business.
- *Rationalize and simplify local regulations (zoning, etc.).
- *State responsibilities: provide incentives for “regional” ED vision and planning/penalties for not doing it.

Priority Issue #3 Allocate major economic development funding by region and state works with key players from region on use of money.

- *Consolidate all ED funding into Commerce. Add and provide budget that can implement the state ED plans.
- *Establish regional councils for ED.
- *Regional councils develop strategic ED plan for regional prosperity.
- *Promote regional ED prosperity plan.
- *Solicit proposals.
- *Regional council/state evaluate and award.
- *Invest money.
- *Monitor/measure/evaluate/revise regional plans.